

DR. RAINSFORD'S ESTIMATE.**The Greatest Preacher Who Spoke the English Language.**

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE TRANSCRIPT.]

NEW YORK, Jan. 24. The illness of Bishop Brooks was not even publicly known in New York until the news came of his death, and the shock to churchmen and to the town was proportionately greater. It was only yesterday morning that the bishop's brother himself, Rev. Arthur Brooks, learned that he was dangerously ill, receiving further tidings of his death before he could start for Boston. The newspapers this morning all speak at length editorially in eulogy of the bishop's work and personality, dwelling especially on his breadth of mind and his deep and generous humanity. Within the Episcopal Church the sense of personal loss is very great.

Dr. Rainsford recalls the bishop's friendship to him when he first came, a stranger, to this country. "I do not think that I exaggerate," said he, "when I say that Phillips Brooks was the greatest preacher who spoke the English language. He was not only a great but a good man, and it seems to me that his loss to the church at this time is irreparable." Dr. Rainsford proposes to preach a memorial sermon next Sunday. Dr. Dix of Trinity, Dr. Morgan of the Church of the Heavenly Rest and other clergymen speak as warmly of Dr. Brooks.

The bishop last preached in New York on Christmas Day in his brother's pulpit at the Church of the Incarnation, but the memory of his four lenten lectures at Trinity in February, 1890, is still vivid, when the church and even the chancel and the choir were thronged to their utmost each day at noon, not with the habitually religious men, but with the brokers, the bankers, the clerks and even the office boys of Wall street and the financial quarters.

It is recalled, also, that in the confirmation of